

September 16, 2009

MINUTES of a Special Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Council of the Town of Secaucus, County of Hudson, State of New Jersey held on the 16th day of September, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Government Center, Secaucus, N.J.

Present: Mayor Richard Steffens  
Councilmembers: John Bueckner  
Michael Gonnelli  
Gary Jeffas  
John Shinnick  
Dawn McAdam  
John Reilly

Pledge of Allegiance

The following statement was read by Town Clerk Michael Marra:

"Adequate notice for this meeting, as required by the Open Public Meetings Act, has been provided by the filing of the notice of Meetings with the Municipal Clerk, the posting of said notice on the official bulletin board in the Municipal Building, and the delivery of same to the Secaucus Home News on December 18, 2009."

This body wishes to advise you that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:23-11.1, et seq. of the Indoor Air Quality Standards and Procedures for Buildings Occupied by Public Employees, smoking anywhere in this public building is prohibited by law.

In the event of a fire or other emergency, please note that there are two exits in the rear of the Council Chamber which may be used."

The first item on the agenda is as follows:

The following ordinance was read: No. 2009-13

CALENDAR YEAR 2009  
ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A:4-45.1 et. seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said final budget appropriations to 2.5% or the cost of living adjustment of 3.5% over the previous years final appropriations; and

WHEREAS, a municipality may, by ordinance, bank the difference between its final budget appropriations subject to the 2.5% cap and the 3.5% cost of living adjustments when said difference is not appropriated as part of the final budget; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Secaucus, County of Hudson, hereby determines that this difference in the amount of 4291,841 that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to the final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, that any amount authorized herein above that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the director of the Division of Local Government services within 5 days of introduction; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.



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Mayor Steffens asked if any one wished to be heard regarding the foregoing proposed ordinance. There being no one requesting the floor, Councilman Reilly, moved that the public hearing be closed, seconded by Councilman Shinnick.

AYES: Bueckner, Gonnelli, Jeffas, Shinnick, McAdam, Reilly, Steffens  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None Motion carried.

Councilman Reilly moved that the foregoing ordinance be finally adopted, seconded by Councilman Jeffas.

AYES: Bueckner, Gonnelli, Jeffas, Shinnick, McAdam, Reilly, Steffens  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2009 MUNICIPAL BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF SECAUCUS

Mayor Steffens called on Sam Maffei.

Mr. Maffei stated that he did not receive a copy of the amendments when he requested the copy of the budget and asked how the taxpayers would know the changes?

Mayor Steffens stated that he spoke with CFO, Margaret Barkala earlier that day and stated that when the introduction of the amendment is made, he would allow the public to comment on the changes.

Mr. Maffei asked if this procedure follow State Law?

Mayor Steffens stated that he believed that it does.

Mr. Maffei questioned the timing and the how the taxpayers were not able to see the amendments.

Mayor Steffens stated asked Mrs. Barkala to explain.

Mrs. Barkala explained the legal procedure of which the Town has followed.

Mr. Maffei continued and spoke about the surplus advertised in the newspaper. He questioned a discrepancy.

Mrs. Barkala explained how funds were raised and how the figures were reached.

Mayor Steffens explained about a pension deferment as being part of the difference.

Mrs. Barkala explained further.

Mr. Maffei pointed out an item on sheet 12 and asked for an explanation of the increase.

Mrs. Barkala explained that it is contractual as well as including car allowances.

Mr. Maffei questions another line for other expenses and asked what that included.

Mrs. Barkala explained that includes the contractual resolutions including the Meadowlands Hospital and other employee programs.

Mr. Maffei asked for a list and Mrs. Barkala stated that she would provide that for him.

Mr. Maffei spoke about other items that have discrepancies.

Mrs. Barkala explained that too is contractual.

Mr. Maffei asked about expenses.

Mrs. Barkala noted that the figure was less than last year and that is due to a new upgraded computer company and the savings on the maintenance.

Mr. Maffei spoke about assessment of taxes. He asked about the list of

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expenses for that office.

Mrs. Barkala explained that the bulk of the expenses in that office is for Munidex, a company used for computer services as well as the mailers that are sent out.

Mr. Maffei asked if that department is under Mrs. Barkala jurisdiction.

Mrs. Barkala stated that it is not and stated that it comes under the Town Administrator.

Mr. Maffei questioned page 13 and collection of taxes and asked how many employees in that department.

Mrs. Barkala stated that there are three.

Mr. Maffei questioned a list of expenses of \$30,000 that has been appropriated and asked what that is for.

Mrs. Barkala stated that it is again for the computer company and explained that they spend more to have the computer company train the additional personnel.

Mr. Maffei asked about legal services and costs. He asked for an explanation of the amount.

Mrs. Barkala listed for whom the amount is allotted for. She noted that it is less than the prior year.

Mr. Maffei questioned the municipal clerk's office and number of employees.

Mrs. Barkala stated there are three.

Mr. Maffei asked about additional expenses of \$73,000.

Mrs. Barkala explained that it is advertising fees and code books.

Mr. Maffei questioned page 14 and engineering expenses and asked how many employees.

Mrs. Barkala stated there is one.

Mr. Maffei asked for an explanation of expenses of \$200,000.

Mrs. Barkala explained that this is for contracts that have been awarded with engineering fees.

Mr. Maffei asked for a list and Mrs. Barkala stated that she would provide it.

Mr. Maffei questioned sheet 15, insurance and asked how many employees are covered by that?

Mrs. Barkala stated that she did not the exact amount, but explained that it is only full time employees that are covered.

Mr. Maffei asked for the cost per employee and Mrs. Barkala stated that she would provide that for him.

Mayor Steffens stated that there has been discussion with the Town Administrator regarding exploring other markets for insurance to try to keep the cost down.

Mr. Maffei asked about item 15A and the Police Department and noted that he has nothing against any of these departments, and that he is just looking for information. He asked what the expenses included.

Mrs. Barkala stated that is the operating expenses of the Police Department. She gave a list of expenses.

Mr. Maffei asked about the Emergency Medical Services expenses.

Mrs. Barkala explained that it is for the contract for the ambulances.

Councilman Reilly explained that the expenses is for having the

ambulance on stand by and explained it further.

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Mr. Maffei thanked all for the information.

Mayor Steffens asked if anyone else wished to be heard.

Mayor Steffens called on Don Evanson.

Mr. Evanson asked about the sale of public property and noted that was resolved last week at a prior meeting. He asked about the \$1 million dollars difference if the land is not sold. He asked where the \$1 million came from.

Mayor Steffens explained some of the changes necessary to meet that figure.

Mr. Evanson spoke about the people at that meeting regarding the sale of property and explained that the residents there are concerned with the condition of area and the park.

Mrs. Barkala explained that will be reviewed in the capital budget.

Mayor Steffens called on Joe Morano.

Mr. Morano asked that the Mayor introduce the two auditors.

Councilman Gonnelli moved to closed the public hearing on the 2009 Municipal Budget for the Town of Secaucus, seconded by Councilman Reilly.

AYES: Bueckner, Gonnelli, Jeffas, Shinnick, McAdam, Reilly, Steffens  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE 2009 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Councilman Reilly moved to introduce the amendment, seconded by Councilwoman McAdam.

Town Administrator, David Drumeler gave a brief summary of the Amendment.

Mayor Steffens made a brief statement and opened the floor for remarks.

Mayor Steffens called on Sam Maffei.

Mr. Maffei commented that he picked up the budget on that day and stated that he would have liked a copy of the amendment at that time.

Mayor Steffens stated that up until this evening the amendment was still being discussed, therefore, not ready earlier in the day.

Mr. Drumeler noted that the Town received DCA final approval and sign off around 4:00pm today.

Mayor Steffens offered Mr. Maffei a copy of the amendments.

(Inaudible questions)

Mr. Drumeler stated that the increase will be \$.17 on the dollar.

(Inaudible voice)

Mayor Steffens stated that there was not a increase in the budget for the Recreation Center.

Town Clerk, Michael Marra read the Amendment in full as follows:

The following resolution was read: No. 2009-158

RESOLUTION TO AMEND 2009 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the local municipal budget for the year 2009 was approved on the 17<sup>TH</sup> day August. 2009 and

WHEREAS, the public hearing on said budget has been held as advertised;

and

WHEREAS, it is desired to amend said approved budget, now

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Secaucus, County of Hudson, that the following amendments to the approved budget of 2009 be made;

AYES: Bueckner, Gonnelli, Jeffas, Shinnick, McAdam, Reilly, Steffens  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None

CURRENT FUND BUDGET

Anticipated Revenue:

	FROM	TO
1. Surplus Anticipated.	1,775,000.00	1,960,000.00
Total Surplus Anticipated	1,775,000.00	1,960,000.00
3. Miscellaneous Revenue-Section G: Special Items of Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent Director of Local Government Services-other Special Items		
Sale Property	1,000,000.00	000.00
Recreation Center Memberships		
Fees	300,000.00	350,000.00
Parking Lot Fees	00.00	90,000.00
Total Section G: Special Items of Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent Director of Local Government Services-Other Special Items.	4,301,710.70	3,441,710.70
Summary of Revenue:		
1. Surplus Anticipated (Sheet 4,#1)	1,775,000.00	1,960,000.00
3. Miscellaneous Revenue		
Total Section G; Other Special Items	4,301,710.70	3,441,710.70
Total Miscellaneous Revenue	9,554,855.22	8,694,855.22
5. Subtotal General Revenue	11,829,855.22	11,154,855.22
6. Amounts to Be Raised by Taxes	32,689,136.72	33,114,136.72
7. Total General Revenues	43,518,991.94	44,268,991.94
8. General Appropriations		
8a. Operations-within "CAPS"		
Engineering:		
Other Expenses	200,000.00	187,500.00
Public Buildings and Grounds		
Salary and Wages	778,820.00	755,820.00
Insurance:		
Other Insurance Premiums	504,486.00	480,986.00
Police:		
Salary and Wages	6,950,416.00	6,834,416.00
Road Repair and maintenance:		
Salary & Wages	2,654,105.00	2,631,605.00
Other Expenses	448,600.00	426,100.00
Unclassified:		
Electricity	620,000.00	605,000.00
Gasoline	270,000.00	265,000.00
(H-1) Total General Appropriation for Municipal Purposes within "CAP"	27,700,162.00	27,450.162.00
Total Operations Including Contingent within "CAP"	27,725,162.00	27,475,162.00



Detail:		
Salary & Wages	15,184,602.00	15,023,102.00
Other Expenses	12,540,560.00	12,452,060.00

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I. Subtotal general Appropriations (Items (h-1) and (o)	43,300,991.94	43,050,991.94
9. Total General Appropriations	44,518,991.94	44,268,991.94

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that two certified copies of this resolution be filed forthwith in the office of the Director of Local Government Services for certification of the local municipal budget so amended.

It is hereby certified that this is a true copy of a resolution amending the budget, adopted by the governing body on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2009.

Councilman Reilly moved that the foregoing resolution be adopted, seconded by Councilwoman McAdam.

Councilman Bueckner stated that he and many others are not happy with adopting a budget this late in the year. He stated that he is not happy with the tax increase and offered his opinion on the changes that had to be made. He noted that budget discussions will begin in October.

Councilman Gonnelli stated that communication is very important. He offered his opinion on specific issues within the budget.

Councilman Jeffas offered his opinion and agreed that communication was a significant problem. He spoke about specific issues.

Councilman Shinnick commended Mrs. Barkala and Mr. Drumeler on their work on the budget. He offered his opinion of specific issues. He agreed that he was not happy with adopting a September budget. He spoke about the services offered by the Town and said that he looking forward to working on the next budget.

Councilwoman McAdam stated that she asked Mrs. Barkala and Mr. Drumeler many questions about the budget and explained that she contacted neighboring Towns and asked about their increases. She thanks Mrs. Barkala and Mr. Drumeler for helping her through her first the budget process.

Councilman Reilly offered his opinion and explained that he too was not happy with the increase, but recognizes the necessity.

Mayor Steffens offered his explanation of the budget and some of the reductions. He stated that the appropriations are left in the budget so that in the future a transfer of funds can be done. He thanked Mr. Drumeler and Mrs Barkala for the work on budget. He thanked each Council Member for their professionalism during this process. He spoke about the future for the Town and the costs incurred. He offered his opinion on specific items and spoke about the future budget of the Town. He noted that a finance committee will be developed so that the process can get started in the near future.

AYES: Bueckner, Gonnelli, Jeffas, Shinnick, McAdam, Reilly, Steffens  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None Motion carried.

Councilman Reilly moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm, seconded by Councilman Gonnelli.

AYES: Bueckner, Gonnelli, Jeffas, Shinnick, McAdam, Reilly, Steffens  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None Motion carried.

Michael Marra, Town Clerk



